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MINUTES

OF THE

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

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7 - 9 January 1971

Meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Executive Committee Meeting - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

7 - 9 January 1971

PRESENT:

Presidents:	Rev. Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft (Honorary) Rev. Dr. Ernest A. Payne Rev. Dr. John C. Smith
Officers:	Dr. M.M. Thomas His Eminence Metropolitan Meliton Miss Pauline M. Webb Dr. Eugene C. Blake
Members:	Rev. Jean B. Bokeleale Most Rev. Archbishop Ruben Josefson Prof. Dr. Jan Milic Lochman Rev. Dr. Robert J. Marshall Bishop Dr. Roy C. Nichols Rev. Dr. Jacques Rossel Prof. T. Sabev Bishop Karekin Sarkissian General T.B. Simatupang Rt. Rev. Oliver S. Tomkins Dr. Richard von Weizsäcker Mrs. Janet Wesonga
Consultants:	His Eminence Metropolitan Emilianos Bishop G. Germogen Rt. Hon. Earl of March Bishop James K. Mathews

APOLOGIES

His Holiness Patriarch German of Serbia
Landesbischof D. Dr. Hanns Lilje
Rt. Rev. A.H. Zulu
Mr. Juan V. Faune
Präses Karl Gottschald
His Eminence Metropolitan Nikodim

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The meeting convened at 16.30 h. on Thursday, 7 January, in the Ghion Hotel, Addis Ababa. Opening prayers were conducted by the Chairman, prayers at subsequent sessions being led by Miss P.M. Webb, the Rt. Rev. O.S. Tomkins, Rev. J. Rossel and Prof. T. Sabev. Closing worship was led by Metropolitan Meliton.

1. Roll Call

The General Secretary called the roll, presenting apologies from His Holiness Patriarch German of Serbia, Landesbischof D. Dr. Hanns Lilje, the Rt. Rev. A.H. Zulu, Mr. Juan V. Faune, Präses Karl Gottschald and His Eminence Metropolitan Nikodim.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in Arnoldshain, Germany, 31 August - 4 September 1970, having been previously circulated, were confirmed.

3. Reports to Central Committee of the Chairman and the General Secretary

Copies of the reports which the Chairman of the Executive Committee and the General Secretary would be making to Central Committee were circulated. Dr. Blake spoke briefly to some of the points upon which he would be reporting in greater detail to Central Committee, drawing attention to

(a) the financial crisis with which the Council was faced in so far as its General Budget was concerned;

(b) the Report of the Structure Committee which had been given general approval by the Reacting and Advisory Group on Structure;

(c) the race question, with special reference to reaction to the decisions taken by the Executive Committee at its last meeting;

(d) a slowing up in the matter of relationships with the Roman Catholic Church; and

(e) his travel programme which had included attendance at the first meeting of the reconstituted Christian Council of Nigeria following the cessation of hostilities.

4. Death of Dr. A.M. Tambunan

The Executive Committee, through its member General Simatupang, was informed of the recent death of Dr. A.M. Tambunan, a minister of Government and a leader of the ecumenical movement in Indonesia. The Executive Committee takes note of this great loss to the ecumenical movement and directs

the General Secretary to write an appropriate message on its behalf to the Council of Churches in Indonesia.

5. Agenda and Programme of Central Committee

Mr. Thomsen presented the draft programme and timetable of Central Committee, drawing attention to the changed form of the programme which provided more time for discussion in groups and reference committees. Draft lists of the membership of groups and committees were also before the Committee. After discussion and some minor amendments it was agreed that the draft agenda and programme, together with the group and committee membership lists, be commended to the Central Committee.

6. Membership

a) Applications for Membership

(i) The Japanese Orthodox Church.

The Committee received a report on the application for membership of the Japanese Orthodox Church which had now been granted autonomy by the Russian Orthodox Church and was fully independent. This Church had accepted the Basis and satisfied the requirements of the Rules. Dr. Blake said that since the application had been prepared a cable had been received from the Kyodan pointing out that certain problems were involved. After discussion it was AGREED that the officers be authorized to undertake such consultations as were possible and to report back to a later session. Dr. Blake later reported that discussions had taken place with the Rev. Kiyoshi Ii, Moderator of the Kyodan, and the Rev. John M. Nakajima, General Secretary of the National Christian Council of Japan. They had informed him that the United Church of Christ in Japan, the Anglican-Episcopal Church in Japan and the National Christian Council recommended that the application be deferred pending the establishment of full ecumenical relationships, which it was hoped would not long be delayed. It was AGREED -

> that no action be taken on the application for membership of the Japanese Orthodox Church until further information was received from the Japanese member churches.

During the course of the discussion relating to this application it became clear that it raised an important question for the Orthodox Churches regarding the canonical status of the Church, but the decision taken by the Committee was entirely unrelated to this question.

(ii) The Church of Pakistan.

It was AGREED to recommend to Central Committee -

that the application of the Church of Pakistan to membership of the World Council of Churches be approved, this Church having accepted the Basis and satisfied the requirements of the Rules.

(iii) Associate membership.

It was AGREED to recommend to Central Committee -

that the following Churches be accepted as Associate Members of the World Council of Churches, both churches having accepted the Basis and satisfied the requirements of the Rules:

(a) The Methodist Church of Chile
(b) The Evangelical Methodist Church in Uruguay

b) Matters for Report

(i) The Orthodox Church in America.

It was noted that, after having been granted "autocephality" by the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church of Russia, the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of America has changed its name and has asked us to inform the Committee that it is now named: The Orthodox Church in America.

(ii) L'Eglise du Christ au Congo.

It was noted that the Conseil protestant du Congo has officially become the Eglise du Christ au Congo. However, our member churches in Congo: l'Eglise du Christ au Congo (Disciples of Christ in Congo) and l'Eglise évangélique de Manianga-Matadi will keep for the time being their full membership in the World Council of Churches.

(iii) The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan.

In view of the discussions still proceeding in Taiwan it was decided not to present to Central Committee at this time the resignation of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan.

7. Diakonia Desk

The Committee considered a proposal regarding the establishment of a portfolio on social work to continue the responsibilities carried by the Diakonia Desk which was established in September 1967 in accordance with the decision of Central Committee in 1965. This desk was jointly sponsored by the World Council of Churches, the International Federation for Inner Mission and Christian Social Work, and the World Federation of Deaconesses Associations.

It was AGREED -

that the Executive Committee recommend -

(a) that the Central Committee approve the continuance of the work begun in 1965 under the new principles outlined and that the portfolio be located in Programme Unit II (Justice and Service), its title and exact relationship to the Unit to be worked out by the Unit (to be later approved by Central Committee);

(b) that the General Secretary be directed to take steps for the staffing of the portfolio if and when regular financial support for it has been assured.

8. Report of the Joint Working Group between the Roman Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches

Dr. Vischer presented the Third Official Report of the Joint Working Group between the Roman Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches, together with an appendix detailing the activities of the Group since the Second Official Report was issued in 1967. The Committee also received a report on Common Witness and Proselytism and a Study Document on Catholicity and Apostolicity both of which had been prepared by Joint Theological Commissions on the initiative of the Joint Working Group. Dr. Vischer drew attention to some of the main issues raised by the Third Official Report, and said that the Report, together with the other documents, would be considered in detail by Central Committee.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the initial experimental three-year period of SODEPAX would expire at the end of 1972, and it was AGREED -

that the Executive Committee recommend that the Committee on Society, Development and Peace (SODEPAX) be continued for a second experimental period of up to three years, subject to possible structural changes which might provide

(a) a form of collaboration which corresponded more fully to the World Council of Churches as a fellowship of churches, and

(b) ecumenical collaboration over a wider field of development.

9. W.C.C. Action on non-violent methods of achieving social change

The Executive Committee considered a document on action taken since Uppsala in pursuance of the Assembly resolution on Martin Luther King together with proposals for possible further action. In view of the importance at the present time of the debate on the issue of using violent or non-violent methods of achieving social change, it was AGREED -

that the Executive Committee commend to Central Committee the proposals for further action outlined in the document.

10. Report of the Structure Committee

Bishop Mathews spoke to the Report of the Structure Committee, pointing out that the proposals it contained were the result of a great deal of hard and concentrated work on the part of the members of the Committee; full consultation had been had with senior members of the staff and the advice of members of Central Committee and others had been sought. The Report had been carefully scrutinized by the Reacting and Advisory Group and had received its support, and he hoped that the Executive Committee would also commend it to Central Committee.

Bishop Samuel, in presenting the report of the Reacting and Advisory Group, drew attention to a number of comments and amendments which the Group was forwarding to the Central Committee. The main proposals which the Report of the Structure Committee contained were being commended to Central Committee for adoption. Dr. Marshall said that the Reacting and Advisory Group, while warmly welcoming the celebratory aspect of the Assembly as described in the Report, had been glad to note the emphasis laid on the legislative responsibility which it must carry.

After discussion it was AGREED -

that the Executive Committee commend the Report of the Structure Committee to the Central Committee for its favourable consideration, asking the Committee to take into account the report of the Reacting and Advisory Group together with the following comments made during the discussion of the Report in the Executive Committee.

(a) It was suggested that further consideration should be given to the statement of Functions and Purposes contained in the proposed revised Constitution (Central Committee document no. 3, Article III, page 1). The question was raised whether 'ecumenical fellowship' could be defined as the ultimate goal of unity. No common mind was reached but it was urged that the necessary steps be taken to ensure that a decision on the proposed revision to the Constitution could be taken at the meeting of the Central Committee in August 1972. It was further suggested that the revision of Article III should be considered by the Commission on Faith and Order at its meeting in Louvain.

(b) There was discussion regarding the necessity of continuing until the next Assembly the representation on the Staff Executive Group of the Directors of the Commissions on Faith and Order, World Mission and Evangelism and International Affairs. This was, however, strongly countered as militating against the principle of collegiality of staff built into the new structure.

(c) The question was raised whether the Department of Communication should come under the General Secretariate. The Committee, however, recognized the value of retaining it in Unit III but proposed that the following words be added to paragraph 51(c) dealing with the responsibilities of the General Secretary: "He conducts the general correspondence of the Council and is responsible for the interpretation of the Council to its constituency and to the general public, a responsibility which must entail a special relationship to him of the Director of Communications and those concerned with the press service of the Council."

11. Distribution of Minutes of Executive Committee

Dr. Thomas said that enquiries had been received from a number of quarters regarding the possibility of copies of the minutes of Executive Committee being sent to members of the Central Committee. The consensus of opinion was against the adoption of this procedure though it was suggested that the matter might be reconsidered at a later date. In the meantime

it was AGREED -

that after each meeting of the Executive Committee the General Secretary should write to members of the Central Committee giving them a summary of the main decisions taken.

12. Programme to Combat Racism

Dr. Sjollema recalled the decisions taken at the previous meeting of the Executive Committee regarding grants to organizations engaged in the struggle against racism, and outlined the decisions taken at Uppsala and Canterbury which had led up to the action taken by the Committee. He gave a detailed account of the reaction to the Executive Committee's decision by churches in various parts of the constituency, and said that full documentation would be available to the Reference Committee of Central Committee dealing with this matter. There was considerable discussion following Dr. Sjollema's report but no action was taken by the Executive Committee in view of the fact that full attention would be given in Central Committee and its Reference Committee to the Report of the Programme to Combat Racism and to questions arising from the action of the Executive Committee at Arnoldshain.

On the proposal of Dr. Payne

it was AGREED -

> that the Executive Committee express its appreciation to members of the staff and others who had given so much time and thought to the controversy that had arisen following the Executive Committee's action at Arnoldshain.

13. World Consultation on Christian Councils

Mr. Hayward reported on plans for the World Consultation on Christian Councils, to be held from June 28 to July 7, 1971, authorization for which had been given by the Committee at its last meeting. The theme agreed upon for the Consultation was "Rethinking the Role of National Christian Councils". Invitations had been sent to all associated and affiliated councils and to the regional conferences. In reply to a question from Bishop Sarkissian, Mr. Hayward said that invitations had also been sent to sixteen councils not officially related to the World Council of Churches and requests from other areas would be sympathetically considered. It was, however, necessary to bear in mind the limited budget within which the arrangements for the consultation had to be made. Provision had been made for a few consultants, including representation from the Roman Catholic Church.

It was AGREED -

(a) that General T.B. Simatupang be invited to act as Chairman of the World Consultation on Christian Councils to be held in Geneva in 1971, with Dr. Nababan as Deputy Chairman;

(b) that a Corresponding Committee be set up to react to and make suggestions regarding the plans developed step by step by the staff group, the following to be invited to serve:

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman
Canon J.A.I. Falope (Nigeria)
Fr. F.X. Mugambe (Uganda)
Dr. J. Niewieczerzal (Poland)
Rev. Randolph Nugent (USA)
Rev. M.A.Z. Rolston (India)
Rev. Frederick Talbot (Guyana)
Rev. David Taylor (New Zealand)

(c) that the Executive Committee encourage the staff to proceed with preparations for the Consultation on the lines indicated.

14. Commission of the Churches on International Affairs

Mr. Niilus said he did not propose to comment fully on the work of the Commission during the last period, since full attention would be given to its main aspects during the Central Committee. Copies of the printed report were in the hands of members and Mr. Niilus hoped that they would study this. The main problem which needed to be examined, together with related issues, was that of human rights, which covered such matters as peace, disarmament, social change, international law, the use and abuse of power and the issue of violence and non-violence. Mr. Niilus welcomed the new programme of Central Committee which would provide a greater amount of time for discussion in groups and sub-committees.

15. Donation from the Netherlands Reformed Church

Mr. Itty reported that the Netherlands Reformed Church had responded to the 2% appeal and had collected a sum of $70,000, half to be remitted to the World Council immediately and half in July. The Church asked advice as to whether this should be shared between the Department of Inter-Church Aid and the Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development, or whether it might be devoted solely to the latter. On the unanimous recommendation of the staff members concerned,

it was AGREED -

(a) that the Netherlands Reformed Church be informed that it was suggested that the whole of its donation should be designated for the work of the Churches' Participation in Development;

(b) that the General Secretary be asked to send a letter to the Church expressing appreciation of this generous contribution to the work of development.

16. New York Office

The Committee received a report on the New York Office, recalling that in May 1970 the Executive Committee of the U.S. Conference had decided to cut the executive personnel from six to three and to reduce services and space accordingly. This decision was taken in the light of the financial difficulties being experienced both by the World Council of Churches and the member churches in the United States, which each carries 50% of the cost of the office. The decision of the Executive Committee of the W.C.C. at Arnoldshain to reduce its support by a further $12,500 had meant that consideration must be given to a further reduction by one Executive Staff member. A special committee of the U.S. Conference had met twice, once with the General Secretary, and a full meeting of the Executive Committee of the U.S. Conference itself had followed. The agreements then reached were before the meeting, and it was AGREED -

that on the recommendation of the leaders of the U.S. Conference, the Executive Committee recommend to the Central Committee -

(a) that the U.S. Office should be continued on this limited basis at least until the end of 1973;

(b) that the World Council of Churches and the U.S. Conference should clearly define for the New York Office the functions which it will carry and those it cannot carry, so as to reduce as far as possible the level of expectation.

Members of the Committee expressed concern lest the severe reductions in the number of staff in the New York Office and the consequent decrease in the promotion work which it was able to carry should seriously affect the income from the United States. Dr. J.C. Smith, Chairman of the U.S. Conference, said he shared this concern but in the present financial situation it was not possible to recommend any other action concerning the office. He believed that the Central Committee members from the U.S.A. would themselves have to carry additional responsibilities of interpretation and promotion with U.S.A. member churches.

17. Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development

Mr. Itty reported that the Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development would be asking the Central Committee to adopt a statement on Development in the light of the fact that the Second Development Decade was beginning.

18. Department of Communication

Dr. van den Heuvel presented a report on the Working Committee of the Department of Communication. The Executive Committee received the report, noting that it would be presented to Central Committee for consideration. The requests regarding staff appointments would be considered by the Finance Sub-Committee, and the Executive Committee expressed the hope that if it proved impossible in the present financial crisis to appoint an assistant producer within the Radio/TV section, the Central Committee would underline the suggestion previously made that someone might be seconded to this work for a period.

19. Commission of the Churches on World Mission and Evangelism

Mr. Potter reminded the Committee that a meeting of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism was to be held in Indonesia from 29 December 1971 to 12 January 1972. The Rules provided that half the members of the Commission should be appointed by Central Committee and since the list of nominations could not be completed in time for the present meeting and the next meeting would be too late, he hoped that these appointments might be made by the Executive Committee at its September meeting.

It was AGREED -

that the Central Committee be asked to authorize the Executive Committee at its meeting in September 1971 to appoint 50% of the members of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism in accordance with the Rules.

20. Appointment of Divisional Committees

Dr. Thomas pointed out that it had been agreed that the membership of all divisional and departmental committees should be revised. He proposed that in view of the proposed changes in the structure of the Council this revision be deferred for the time being. This was AGREED.

21. Department on Church and Society

Mr. Abrecht said that a progress report on the work of the

Department on Church and Society would be presented to Central Committee. Meantime he took the opportunity of introducing the first of a series of study booklets in connection with the enquiry on "The Future of Man and Society" entitled "From here to where? - Technology, Faith and the Future of Man" by David M. Gill. This study was receiving an encouraging response in many countries. In order to strengthen the participation of scientists in the work of the Department, an invitation had been extended to Prof. Charles Birch, Chairman of the School of Political Science in the University of Sydney, Australia, to accept appointment as Vice-Chairman of the Working Committee. Professor Birch had indicated his willingness to undertake this.

22. Worship at Central Committee

Bishop Sarkissian, Chairman of the Worship Committee, reported on arrangements for worship during the meeting of Central Committee. These were noted with appreciation.

23. Portfolio on Biblical Studies

Bishop Sarkissian spoke to proposals concerning the portfolio on Biblical Studies, the establishment of which had been agreed by the Committee at its last meeting. These proposals would be presented to Central Committee. The Executive Committee underlined the importance of the appointment of a panel of consultants but felt that time should be allowed for reflection on the composition of the panel.

It was therefore AGREED -

> to recommend to Central Committee that the Executive Committee be authorized to appoint a panel of consultants for the Portfolio on Biblical Studies at its meeting in February 1972.

24. Future meetings

Mr. Thomsen presented plans for future meetings as follows:

(i) Executive Committee

(a) 5-9 September 1971 - Sofia, Bulgaria.
Professor Sabev expressed the pleasure of his Church that the Committee had accepted the invitation to hold the meeting in Bulgaria; it was hoped that members would reserve two days before the meeting and/or two days afterwards so that they could see something of the country, visiting some of the churches. His Church would meet the hospitality expenses of all members, and they

would also try to meet travel expenses in some cases, in spite of the difficulty of obtaining the necessary currency. Members were asked to let Mr. Thomsen know whether they preferred to spend two additional days before or after the meeting, so that he might make the necessary arrangements with Professor Sabev. Professor Sabev was asked to convey to his Church the warm appreciation of the Committee for this generous invitation.

(b) 7-11 February 1972 - An invitation from the New Zealand Council of Churches had been provisionally accepted, but in view of the present financial crisis facing the Council it was questioned whether this would be practicable. Should the invitation be accepted it was felt that members of the Committee should be willing to spend at least an additional week in Australasia in order to make the cost of travel worth while. In view of the necessity of giving the New Zealand Council a firm reply with as little delay as possible it was later AGREED -

that the matter be further discussed by the Priorities Committee which the Executive Committee was asking Central Committee to set up. This would enable a decision to be taken before the close of the present series of meetings.

(c) 11-12 August 1972 - in the Netherlands immediately preceding the Central Committee.

(ii) Central Committee

(a) 13-23 August 1972 - in tne Netherlands

(b) August 1973 - if possible in an Eastern European country.

(c) August 1974 - invitations have been received from West Germany, Finland and France. These invitations would be considered by one of the Reference Committees of Central Committee. It was AGREED -

that the Executive Committee recommend that in view of the fact that a meeting was held in France as recently as 1962, this invitation be placed third in order of preference.

(iii) Frequency of meetings

Dr. Rossel proposed that consideration should be given to the desirability of holding Central Committees at eighteen-month intervals. It was AGREED -

that this suggestion be passed to the Reference Committee.

25. Report of Finance Committee

Lord March presented the following report of the Finance Committee:

1. The main purpose of this report is to put before the Executive Committee some of the issues which the Finance Committee of the Central Committee will have to face and on which recommendations will have to be made to the Central Committee.

2. It is no longer possible to avoid using the word 'crisis' in connection with the financial position of the World Council of Churches, though it must be emphasized again that the crisis arises on the General Budget and not on the other budgets of the Council.

3. 1970 Result. The accumulated net deficit at the end of 1970 is expected to be between $45,000 and $75,000.

4. 1971 Estimate. Owing to further estimated reductions in income the estimated net deficit for 1971, after taking into account the cuts made at Arnoldshain, is about $60,000. It is almost certainly now too late to make further cuts for 1971 so the estimated accumulated deficit by the end of 1971 is expected to amount to between $100,000 and $135,000. This sum will eventually have to be found, say by the 1975 Assembly, either from special contributions or from reserves. This could result in no increase in reserves.

5. Special Appeals. The General Secretary informed the Committee that he had made a personal approach to some thirteen individual persons in the USA to make gifts in support of General Budget operations in 1971 and 1972. While greatly appreciating the efforts of the General Secretary to find additional funds from new sources, the Finance Committee feels bound to draw the attention of the Executive Committee to the real dangers of such approaches:

(i) They break with the accepted principle that if we are to be a genuine World Council of Churches then the General Budget operations must be financed by the contributions of the member churches.

(ii) Commitments lasting several years and without a fixed end would be met from sums raised annually which means a very heavy load of fund-raising for staff members.

(iii) Dependence of the WCC on the USA is increased at a time when this may be politically unwise.

6. Budget 1972 and after. The assumption has already been made and the assurance given that the General Budget will

be balanced, without the need for special contributions, in 1972. As no further approach to churches for increased income can be made between 1972 and 1975 this means that the General Budget must be balanced in each of these years. As the assumption must be made that inflation will continue, then to balance the General Budget in say 1974 and 1975 will require surpluses to be accumulated in 1972 and 1973 or a further accumulated deficit to be met from special contributions or reserves in 1975.

7. Income in 1972 and after. Warning has already been given that it will be necessary to request a further increase in contributions of at least 25% in 1972. Unfortunately no request for increased contributions ever produces the full theoretical increase in income. Further, the USA member churches are very unlikely to be able to make an increase over all of anything like 25%. The actual increase in income could well be no more than $150,000 which would leave a gap between income and expenditure of between $150,000 and $200,000 in 1972, i.e. 10% of the total General Budget of $150,000,000. It is clear, therefore, that in 1972 and thereafter actual cuts in programme will be necessary as against simply economies in services such as were made at Arnoldshain. The Finance Committee of the Central Committee will have to fix the approximate size of total cuts to be required in 1972.

8. Review of Priorities. The Finance Committee believes that as cuts in programme for 1972 will be necessary a comprehensive review of WCC priorities is now urgently necessary and that the responsibility for this should not fall primarily on the shoulders of the General Secretary. It therefore recommends that this Executive Committee should recommend to the Central Committee the immediate establishment of a Review of Priorities Committee to do two things:

(i) to determine the most suitable procedures whereby the Executive Committee at its September meeting could be presented with some alternative proposals on priorities for total WCC expenditure in 1972 so that a decision on the required cuts in 1972 can be made at that time;

(ii) to start now during this Central Committee meeting on their task of reviewing priorities and the drawing up of such proposals.

It is considered very unlikely that this Committee could report by the end of this Central Committee but there are several reasons why it would be advantageous to start work now.

(a) All the persons who would be required to carry out this task are here now.

(b) To start now will save members of the Committee some time and more particularly some travelling expenses.

(c) It will be very difficult to find convenient dates between the end of this meeting and September when the members of the committee could meet.

(d) The sooner the committee's proposals are known the more realistic will be the planning for 1972.

It is proposed that this committee should meet at the group meeting times and that the officers should be asked to recommend the names of members to sit on it.

9. The Structure Committee Report. The Finance Committee noted that the Structure Committee proposals are stated to involve no additional expenditure except in two respects - first the appointment of one or two Deputy General Secretaries, and secondly in the presently undefined matter of the size and number of Unit and Sub-Unit Committees and the frequency of their meetings. This last matter will no doubt be kept carefully in mind by the Structure Committee as it makes further detailed proposals.

10. Requests from Communication Department. The Finance Committee was told that a communications officer in the New York office could be maintained within the proposed budget of that office. It accepted the suggestion of the Director that an assistant producer in the Radio/TV section should only be appointed if a suitable person on sabbatical leave could be found and thus no additional financial commitment would arise. The Department recommended that the post of Senior Press Officer be maintained but the Committee felt that the decision to eliminate this post taken at Arnoldshain could not at this time be reversed, but that a case for the maintenance of the post should be put before the Review of Priorities Committee.

11. Conclusion. May I end by making a statement of a personal view to which my committee has not been asked to subscribe. I believe it is important that in this serious financial situation we should not become unduly depressed or start speculating about all kinds of dire consequences. Our attitude should, I believe, not be one of optimism or pessimism, but rather of realism. Churches are notoriously reluctant to face up to the establishment of priorities in expenditure, to the cutting out of old activities, and initiation in their place of new ones. Indeed they usually only do so when, as in this case, economies force them into it. Yet surely in such a rapidly changing world if our work is to remain permanently relevant then the establish-

ment of priorities should be a regular and continuous process. I believe therefore that this serious financial situation presents us not so much with the depressing necessity to eliminate worthwhile activities but with the creative opportunity to make our work even more effective.

During the ensuing discussion members expressed the opinion that the establishment of a Review of Priorities Committee as one of the sub-committees of Central Committee, would be of great value in determining what programmes should or should not be undertaken in the present financial situation: this was not solely a financial question but part of our total concern.

It was AGREED -

to recommend to Central Committee that a Review of Priorities Committee be set up.